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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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VOLUNTEERS BEGIN HONDURAN MINISTRY

NEW YORK -- Late last year the Rev. James Douglass, an Episcopal Church missionary in Puerto Cortés, Honduras, requested two volunteer teachers who were willing to serve under difficult circumstances and have a strong love and vocation for the missionary work of the Church.

A few weeks ago, Douglass went to the small airport at San Pedro Sula to welcome Bill Ryan and Betsy Hake, sent there by the Episcopal Church's Volunteers for Mission Program.

Bill, 22, has majored in business administration and sociology at Southern Methodist University. He has been active with his family at Grace Church, Monroe, La., and has a great desire to serve others. He even confides that he is "hoping to enter a seminary and become an Episcopal priest."

Betsy, of Hartland, Wisc., a graduate of DePauw University School of Nursing, is no stranger to Honduras. The previous year she served there with a group of volunteers from the university. "I felt that the Lord was calling me to return," she said. Betsy plays piano and guitar, is active in sports and loves to teach young children.

Douglass reported recently that both Bill and Betsy are happy and getting along fine with the three other volunteers from the U.S.A.

The Rev. Page Bigelow, Consultant to the Volunteers for Mission Program of the Episcopal Church, said that "these young people have a strong desire to serve, to learn and to grow with the people of Honduras."

The volunteers are working in a school and help in the many activities of the local parish. They will return to the United States at the end of their two-year tour of duty.

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The volunteers have to find their own support from family and friends after they have been processed and screened by the Volunteers for Mission Program at the Episcopal Church Center. At the present time the Episcopal Church has 25 volunteers serving in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

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PICTURE CAPTION

#80427 Betsy Hake and Bill Ryan find something to laugh about as they begin two-year tours of duty as Episcopal Church Volunteers for Mission in Honduras. The two join a team of teachers and parish workers in the school and church at Pedro Cortes under the program that has helped meet needs of churches throughout the world with short-term, volunteered skills.

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